

SERVICE DATE - LATE RELEASE APRIL 29, 2004

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. MC-F-21006 TA

STAGECOACH GROUP PLC AND COACH USA, INC., ET AL.—ACQUISITION AND  
CONSOLIDATION OF ASSETS—ROCKFORD COACH LINES, L.L.C.

Decided: April 29, 2004

On, April 16, 2004, Stagecoach Group, PLC, a noncarrier, and its noncarrier intermediate subsidiaries, SCUSI Limited, Coach Administration, Inc., and Coach USA, Inc. (Coach USA), and Sam Van Galder, Inc. (Van Galder), a motor passenger carrier controlled by Coach USA (collectively, applicants), applied for interim approval under 49 U.S.C. 14303(i) and the Board's regulations at 49 CFR 1182.7 to permit applicants to acquire control and operate certain assets of Rockford Coach Lines, L.L.C. (Rockford), a motor passenger carrier and subsidiary of Greyhound Lines, Inc. (Greyhound). Applicants seek interim approval pending a decision on their concurrently filed application for permanent approval of the transaction.

According to applicants, Rockford has been losing substantial sums of money in its operations for an extended period of time, and Greyhound has determined that it can no longer afford to absorb those losses. A grant of interim approval will allow Van Galder to use the assets being acquired to provide bus service to passengers of Rockford following its planned cessation of operations in early May. This will enable passenger service to continue while applicants' concurrently filed application for permanent approval is pending.

Under 49 U.S.C. 14303(i), and 49 CFR 1182.7(b), the Board finds that applicants have demonstrated that failure to grant interim approval of the proposed finance transaction may result in destruction of or injury to the properties being acquired or substantially interfere with their future usefulness in providing adequate and continuous service to the public.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. Applicants are authorized to acquire control and operate certain assets of Rockford under 49 U.S.C. 14303(i) and 49 CFR 1182.7. The application will be considered in a separate decision.

2. This decision is effective on its service date.

3. A copy of this decision will be served on: (1) U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 400 7th Street, S.W., Room 8214, Washington, DC 20590; (2) the U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, 10th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20530; and (3) the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the General Counsel, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590.

By the Board, Chairman Nober.

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary